



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
National Military Park
120 Chatham Lane
Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22405

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 12, 2016
CONTACT NAME: MATT ROLAND (540) 693-3200 EXT. 3140

“The NPS at 100: Full STEAM Ahead!”

FREDERICKSBURG, VA — How does the amount of gunpowder in a cannon affect how loud the blast is? What technological changes to rifles allowed them to shoot more accurately? How did math help determine troop movements?

On September 24, 2016, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park will be offering a science and technology-based educational program to demonstrate how these fields applied to the Civil War. In partnership with the Virginia Parent-Teacher Association, “The NPS at 100: Full STEAM Ahead!” fits directly with the National Park Service’s “Every Kid In A Park” initiative by taking a creative look at the Civil War from more than just an historical perspective.

The program will be offered at Ellwood Manor in the park’s Wilderness Battlefield unit located in Orange County, Virginia. Activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day until 4:00 p.m. Activities consist of the following:

- ***The Science of Sound:*** Living historians will fire off differing gunpowder charges from one of its cannons to demonstrate the changes in wave power. Cannon firings will take place at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
- ***The Evolution of the Rifle:*** Kids will get the chance to see examples of and discuss the changes in firearm technology that allowed more accurate shooting over longer distances.
- ***Engineering & Historic Preservation:*** The park’s maintenance staff will talk about the engineering processes that were used to restore historic Ellwood Manor from a building that was collapsing in on itself to one used for visitor tours throughout the year.
- ***The Art of War:*** Soldiers throughout the Civil War took the time to document battles and camp-life through sketches. Kids will get the chance to learn some drawing techniques and to document a Civil War encampment at Ellwood Manor. Art supplies will be provided.
- ***Angling for an Advantage:*** In an effort to out-manuever their enemies, Civil War soldiers applied math and geometry to their maps to determine where to attack. Come pick up a compass, and learn about the process of orienteering from experts!

This program is one of a number of events hosted by Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP for the NPS Centennial. For more information, call 540-693-3200, or check www.nps.gov/frsp.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park in Northern Virginia was once the bloodiest landscape in North America. Two major Civil War armies clashed in and around Fredericksburg in four pivotal battles within an 18-month span, resulting in 100,000 casualties. The park is the second largest military park in the world and includes four major battlefields and five historic structures that park staff work daily to preserve and interpret for the public.

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